

San Antonio, TX -A study to review water and wastewater infrastructure along border communities originally sponsored by Ciro D. Rodriguez as an amendment to the 2008 Farm Bill has gained valuable traction as Chairman Collin Peterson (D-MN) of the House Agriculture Committee has requested the study from the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The Rodriguez amendment was successfully included in the House-passed Farm Bill, but did not receive the necessary support in the Senate. Rodriguez and Peterson were able to revive the study by making the formal request to the Acting Controller General of the GAO.

"Throughout our district, I have heard from many communities of their need for improved water and wastewater infrastructure," said Rep. Rodriguez. "I believe this study can highlight the needs of our border region to federal officials, so we can best utilize resources. Our communities are having trouble accessing existing programs designed to help, and this study can give us the answers we need to fix these programs."

Specifically, the Rodriguez study would include the following:

- Assessment of current water and wastewater infrastructure needs along the border;
- Examination of federal programs currently assisting in the development of rural water infrastructure in this region and their effectiveness; and
- Recommendations to improve federal programs for rural water infrastructure in border communities.

The GAO is authorized by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 "to evaluate the results of a program or activity the Government carries out under existing law" when ordered by either house of Congress, when requested by a committee of jurisdiction, or on the initiative of the Comptroller General.